A FLAVOUR OF THE LABEL

APRIL 1998 • ISSUE TEN

ALSO NEWS OUT ON • SEAN LENNON • NEIL FINN • BRA • EVERCLEAR • MANSUN • BRAN VAN 3000 • DR JOHN • THE SUPERNATURALS • AND MORE

Parlophone
A Parlophone Publication

RADIOHEAD

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One To Watch

7 Television Commercials

Is in the shops from May 4

Fans will be able to see, in full, the award winning promotional videos for singles from **'The Bends'** and **'OK Computer'**.

Following global acclaim for **'OK Computer'**, Radiohead are currently finishing off their sellout world tour with dates in the USA and Canada, then they will be taking a well earned break.

A TV documentary about the band will be aired later in the year.

Competition

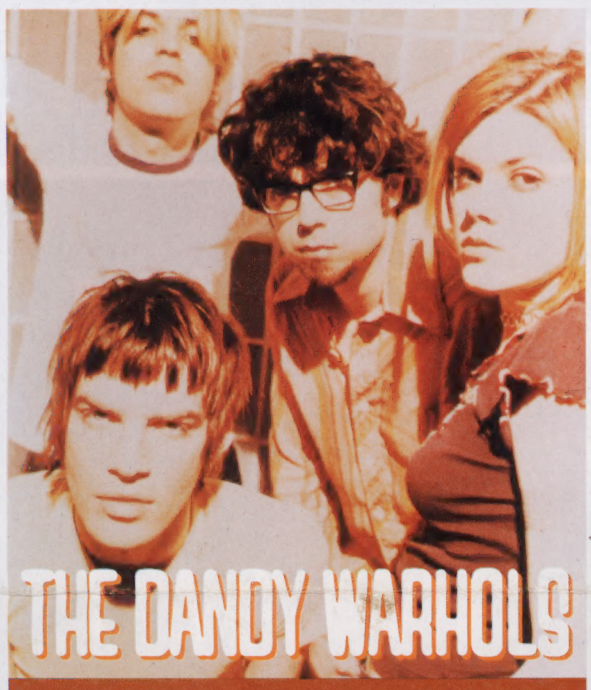
If you would like to win a copy of **'7 Television Commercials'** please match up the following 7 track titles with the relevant video still (by number).

High & Dry > Street Spirit > Just > Fake Plastic Trees
Karma Police > Paranoid Android > No Surprises

We have 10 copies to give away. Please send your answers and contact details to:

Radiohead Competition
Flavour of the Label
PO Box 21, London W10 6XA

Competition closes on May 30th. All winners will be notified.



Fine And Dandy

Odds are that if you haven't yet heard of Portland based fourpiece The Dandy Warhols, you will do very soon. The Dandy Warhols who burst into our top 30 with their debut Parlophone release 'Everyday Should Be A Holiday' release 'Not If You Were The Last Junkie On Earth' on April 20. The band are currently on tour throughout the UK in April and release their eagerly awaited album 'Come Down' on May 4th. Here is a letter from the Dandys that may give you a bit more of an insight on the band...

Dear friend,

The release of our Debut CD, Dandys Rule OK is where the whole hype thing began. Until then we were a little band playing around Portland, Oregon (That's the USA) and practising in Courtney and Peter's crappy little basement. Our local indie label Tim/Kerr records, plucked us up like a ripe cherry to do our CD. It turned out to be great and even though the critics thought that we were trying to sound British, we felt that it was more Velvet Underground/TRex-ish with sixties harmonies and a dose of good old fashioned NW rock. We like melodies and Psychedelia.

So at the time of....Rule OK's release there was this big industry buzz about the NW and we got swept up by it. The first single 'TV Theme song', was added to alot of radio stations and even MTV. We were pleasantly surprised, especially when this was done with Tim Kerr's one person promotions following us around. If you know us, then you know that we can be quite excessive and big moochers, so naturally we rode this pony for all it was worth; free meals, plane rides, hotel rooms and much much more. Eventually we ran out of A&R people willing to fund our entertainment, so we chose the best label that we could find to sign with, Capitol/Parlophone Records. They gave us loads of cash and it was a big party. We all have healthy egos anyway but at this point we thought that we could do no wrong. We had our picture in Rolling Stone, we toured the world, and everyone wrote about us saying that we were going to be the next big thing. Of course we fucked it up.

When it came time to do the big record it all fell apart. The songs weren't quite ready, the studio wasn't quite right, Courtney and Eric started fighting, and when Capitol records heard the tracks they said 'Where Are The Songs?' 'Songs? oh we thought you wanted something new.' We thought that it couldn't get any worse when our high profiled accountant told us that we were broke and that our personal savings had been used to fund everything. The press went crazy with speculation, our new friends stopped calling, and we felt like dumb-asses. It was a wake up call. We moved all our gear to Courtney's crappy basement, Courtney wrote a bunch of songs, and we went back into the studio with Tony Lash to have another try (Tony co-produced our first record along with Eric Matthew's and Heatmiser).

As well as being screw-ups, we also happen to be the luckiest band in the world. When Capitol heard our new record.... **The Dandy Warhols Come Down**, they said 'It's like great songs but new.' Now everyone is excited, we are happy to have it done, and are ready to play out again. Now you ask if we have learned any humility from when we started out in a crappy basement? Not really, we acted like rock stars then and we act like rock stars now.

Have a nice year and we hope that we see you soon.

Love The Dandy Warhols.

Walk On The Wildside

For a band barely out of their teens, Edinburgh four-piece Idlewild's live shows and songwriting talent belies their years. Already described by the NME as 'a flight of stairs falling down a flight of stairs' and tipped by both Steve Lamacq and many publications as one of the bands to watch out for this year, Idlewild have hardly had time to draw breath since signing to Food Records at the end of last year.

Tours with Midget, The Warm Jets, Travis and Catatonia (as part of the Evening Session tour) have been and gone this year and it's only April. Any spare time in between these dates has been used to record the follow up to the band's debut mini album **'Captain'** which was released by Deceptive at the start of the year.

So why sign to a label that seems intent on working the band so mercilessly. Guitarist Rod explains that, after being chased by a number of labels, Idlewild "thought we could work with Food better than with any of the others. We also thought they could get our records into shops everywhere rather than just Edinburgh."

With sustained support coming from both radio and the press, the bands first release on Food will be the single **'A Film For The Future'** which is out now. A tour of their own will follow and then you won't be able to go to a festival this summer without stumbling over one of those aforementioned stunning live shows. All this build up should help prepare the world for their first album proper which won't disappoint a soul.

Matthew Rumbold

sean lennon into the sun

debut album - 18th may - cd • lp

Grand Royal

everclear
Capitol Records
everything to everyone
the new single available on special edition 7" and enhanced CD set.
taken from the album 'so much for the afterglow'. out now.

Attack Of The New Album

Expectation is high for the new material from Mansun, some of which the group debuted on a low-key tour of the UK in March. Playing places that bands rarely play, here was a band honed to a knife-edge, with no record to promote and the desire to branch out and experiment with new songs that are at once darker, more complex than some of their early classics.

But, being Mansun, at its' dark intense heart is the structure of great songs. Building from their classic stream of 4 track EPs, the group are stretching themselves, not going for the obvious. The wide open space has got wider - Dark Mavis has been locked-up. The sound, like on the new song **'Negative'**, is more visceral. There is no orchestra; the stripper vicar is peeled back to the bone, not so much defrocked as detonated. But still it is the quality of the songs that shines through.

Mansun's debut album **'Attack Of The Grey Lantern'** surprised some when it went straight in at No.1, knocking Blur off the top spot. But anyone who'd listened to any of the group's EPs and charted their progress, both musically and chart-wise, should have guessed that the group had struck a chord with an increasing number of people. Constant touring helped. The band have toured almost incessantly since their formation and are now one of the best live groups in the country.

Their last EP **'Closed For Business'**, which featured 4 new songs that don't feature on an album, effortlessly sailed into the Top 10 in October last year. The group played a sold out UK tour at that time and then went straight into the studio to work on the forthcoming album "Six" which is due for release in September.

The first fruits of the new sessions will be a brand new 4 track EP, their eighth, on Parlophone on June 15. The band are still firming-up the track listing but it looks likely that future classic **'Legacy'** will be the lead track. With a killer chorus redolent of the power of **'Wide Open Space'**, **'Legacy'** is the group's best single yet and further proof that they have only just begun to mine their vast songwriting skills. Trace their progress over the eight EPs and you'll see a band who stand alone in the scope of their diversity. Come September and it'll pour down on you.

Murray Chalmers

Bran Van 3000

All Bran Is Good For You.

When a former video director wants to make a record he's bound to think about his music in terms of film, which is precisely what James "Bran Man" Di Salvio did when he assembled the cast of the wonderfully weird Bran Van 3000.

The story begins in New York where Bran Man was directing a video and dj'ing part time in East Village. "The video gave me money, so I called my friend 'Electronic Pierre' Bergen in Montreal and we went to 42nd Street with $10,000 in cash on the subway and bought some studio shit." Together they came up with Bran Van 3000.

Over the course of a year he brought in a total of 20 Montreal musicians, producers, singers and rappers to create a cornucopia of a record aptly titled, **'Glee'** Lo-fi mixes with country, hip-hop with trip hop and electronic with soul - think part Beastie Boys, part Beck, some Hank Williams and a snip of ZZ Top - and you'll start to get the idea. The first single, the so-laid-back -it's-horizontal **'Drinking In L.A.'** alternates the soulful voice of Stephanie Moraille with the hazy outpourings of Bran Man.

Thankfully Bran Van 3000 has been reduced to a working size of nine and should be coming to the UK very shortly.

Karen Johnson

RHYTHM ACE

Flying High

The Bentley Rhythm Ace beat rollercoaster steamed through the end of 1997 in typical manic fashion. The Midlander boys completed a successful 8-date support tour with The Charlatans of the nations larger arenas at the end of November, appeared with Blur on Jools Holland's Ch4 "Hootanny" on New Year's Eve and had a great showing in the end-of-year polls with their rollicking debut album and their Top 20 single, 'Bentley's Gonna Sort You Out'.

With their feet barely touching the floor B.R.A. launched headlong into 1998 with a triumphant NME Brat show at London's Astoria. Also on the bill that night were fellow Skint mates, Lo-Fidelity Allstars, pub-glam punks, Earl Brutus and Coldharbour rockers, The Headrillaz. All kinds of tomfoolery and mayhem ensued both on and off the stage, all despite worryingly intense sub-base frequencies from the Astoria's massive sound system. Channel 4 broadcast edited highlights to an unsuspecting general public. What an evening!

After that, the Bentley's scooped the Vibes Best Dance Act 1997 award at the NME Brat Awards the following week. They were genuinely over-the-moon with the award with Mikey's famous acceptance speech mentioning the fact that he thought 1997 was all a wind up and expected Jeremy Beadle to pop up at any minute and tell him "You've been framed!". Classic.

Throughout late February and early March, Bentley Rhythm Ace took their unique brand of beats, bass, air-raid sirens and tasteful on-stage fashions to the southern hemisphere. They played gigs in Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Australia, where they headlined the sold-out 'Vibes on a Summer's Day' tour of the continents more scenic beach venues. Nice.

The band returned to the UK in mid-March and have started work on a new Bentley's HQ complete with state-of-the art studio facilities (Bontempi's, Stylophones, 8-track cartridge machines and the like). During the week they plan to work on new material and at weekends they're DJ'ing across the length and breadth of the land at fashionable, upmarket discotheques (Heavenly Social, Big Beat Boutique, Bugged Out, etc).

Not ones to sit still for five minutes, the band have also lined up appearances at most of this year's major festivals including Universe '98, Glastonbury, T In The Park, Phoenix and Reading. Watch out for the new B.R.A. live extravaganza at a tent near you this summer.

Finally, look out for a new single in early summer and the Bentley's second album in September.'

Gareth Currie

GIG GUIDE

(ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

THE DANDY WARHOLS

APRIL

FRI 24	LA 2	LONDON
SAT 25	WOUGHTON CENTRE	MILTON KEYNES
SUN 26	FLEECE AND FIRKIN	BRISTOL
TUES 28	ALLEYCAT	READING
WEDS 29	UNIVERSITY	SOUTHAMPTON

everclear

APRIL

SAT 25	THE GARAGE	GLASGOW
SUN 26	UNIVERSITY	NEWCASTLE
TUES 28	WULVERN HALL	WOLVERHAMPTON
WEDS 29	ANSON ROOMS	BRISTOL
THURS 30	ASTORIA	LONDON
MAY 4	ASTORIA	LONDON

Dr John

MAY 24 BARBICAN HALL LONDON

IDLEWILD

APRIL

28	RIVERSIDE	NEWCASATLE
29	LOMAX	LIVERPOOL
30	DUCHESS OF YORK	LEEDS

MAY

1	LOUISIANA	BRISTOL
2	FLAPPER & FIRKIN	BIRMINGHAM
4	FAT PAULIES	NORWICH
5	THE CONCORDE	BRIGHTON
7	THE GARAGE	LONBDON
9	CAS ROCK	EDINGBURGH

BENTLEY RHYTHM ACE

APRIL

24	CAMDEN TOWN HALL	LONDON (DJ GIG)
25	CIVIC HALL	WOLVERHAMPTON (DJ GIG)

MAY

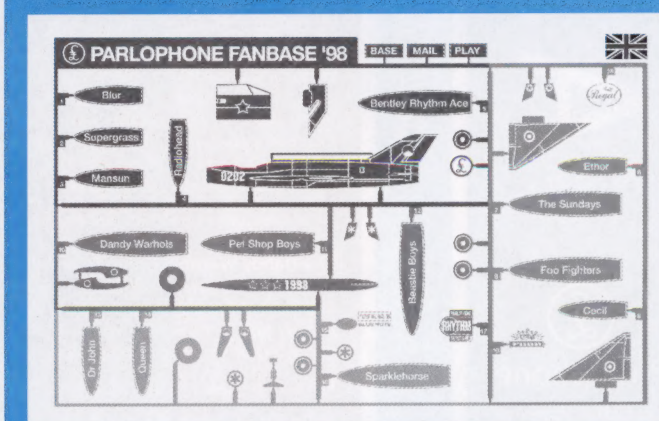
1	OLYMPIA	DUBLIN
15	BUGGED OUT	MANCHESTER (DJ GIG)
16	BACKBEAT	LEEDS (DJ GIG)
23	UNIVERSE 98	KNEBWORTH
24	UNIVERSE 98 (HEADLINING SKINT STAGE)	KNEBWORTH

PARLOPHONE FANBASE '98

For more information on any of the artists featured in Flavour Of The Label why not visit the new Parlophone website. The new website features news, samples and loads more information on all Parlophone artists, there is even a jukebox for your listening pleasure...

www.parlophone.co.uk

TRADE MARK
Parlophone



DrJohn

Blues Operator

Although he is well into the fifth decade of a unique and extraordinary career, Dr John still remains beyond the cutting edge. A man who has worn many hats, literally and metaphorically, the good Dr is also a man of various aliases.

A native of New Orleans, he has been variously known as Mac to his friends, Dr John Creux, or the Night Tripper. But despite these often mysterious soubriquets his is a singular talent, one that now seems entirely relevant to a whole bunch of contemporary artists.

There aren't many things he hasn't touched. Early rock n roll, New Orleans R&B, dirty blues, funky pop, dark psychedelia and crooning jazz standards - these all sit easily in his repertoire. But as anyone who has seen a Dr John show will testify, such a melting pot gumbo of sounds, liberally sprinkled with his Gris-Gris rhythms and deep voodoo growl,push him into territory that exerts a truly hypnotic effect.

When he adopted the Night Tripper persona in 1968, he brewed a heady blend of sounds, backed-up by a truly wild stage act in which he would appear engulfed in clouds of incense, covered in Mardi Gras headdress, beads and feathers - to an accompaniment of snake-dancing voodoo queens. And that was the toned-down version.

Dr John's most celebrated cut from this time is the classic **'I Walk On Guilded Splinters'**, a song which cut through the late '60s underground like static. The song was recently covered by Paul Weller, who is just one of the artists who have collaborated on the new Dr John album, his first for Parlophone.

He signed to the label early last year; towards the end of the year his profile was surprisingly raised by his performance in the **'Perfect Day'** single and video (he's the gruff-voiced iconoclast about whom a lot of people asked "who's that?!!" in his scene-stealing contribution).

Apart from Weller, the new album features contributions from members of Supergrass, Primal Scream, Spiritualised, Portishead, Ocean Colour Scene and the Beta Band, plus , of course, the good Dr's own band, The Lower 911. All the artists have either publicly acknowledged Dr John's influence in their music or wanted to express a mutual empathy in their music and style. The brew has worked. Building in parts on the voodoo Gris Gris feel from before, the album is an amazing example of how collaborations can become much greater than the sum of their parts. Without introducing any self-consciously "modern" elements, or in any way diluting what he's about, Dr John has distilled the essence of Gris Gris into a potent collection of contemporary Creole classics that will introduce him to a brand new audience whilst thrilling people who have avidly followed his legendary career over the years.

Watch out for Dr John at the Barbican on May 24, at the Fleadh on June 6 and possibly at other festival later in the year.
The album **'Anutha Zone'** is released on June 8.

Max Bell/Murray Chalmers

THE SUPERNATURALS

Supernaturals vs. Morocco

Scotland's premier pop tarts, The Supernaturals, are, to use a fabulous pop cliché, currently putting the finishing touches to their second album.

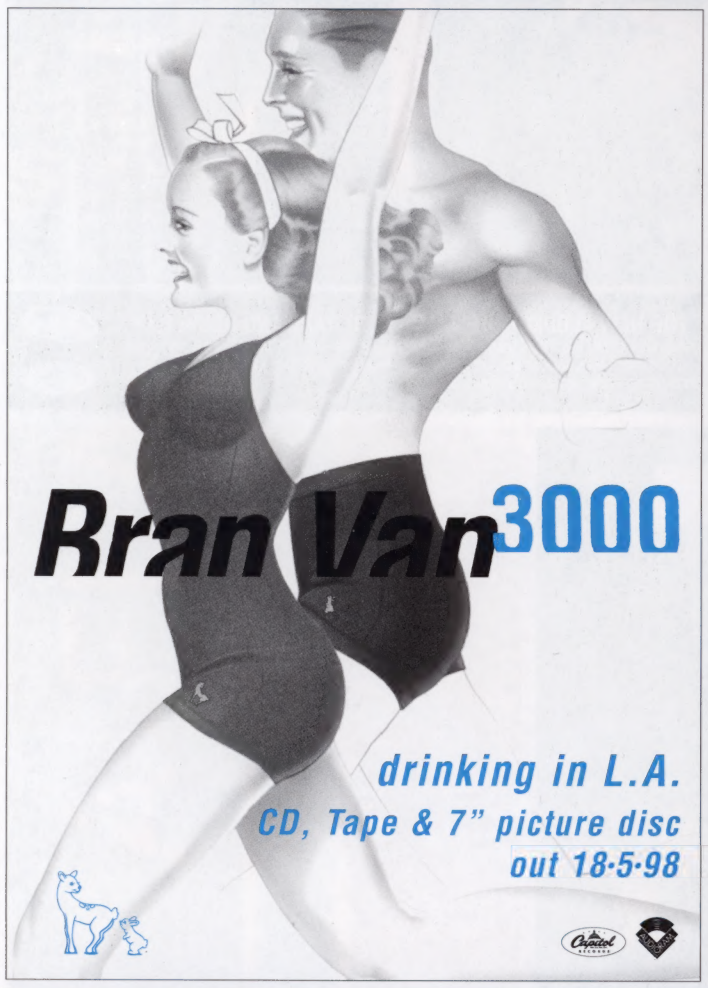
Having so far found 50,000 people sensible enough to buy their first album, **'It Doesn't Matter Anymore'**, the '98 collection will reinforce their position as one of Britain's outstanding exponents of contemporary pop music.

Recorded in numerous studios around the country, again under the watchful eye of Producer Pete Smith, the new, and as yet untitled album consists of a bundle of sterling singles and rousing ballads set to the wry and often twisted lyrics of James McColl.

The first single, **'Built To Get Up'** should have you rattling your cornflake boxes by mid-July. The album will follow in August, kicking off an onslaught of gigs which will confirm their fearsome reputation as relentless touring beasts.

You'll be able to hear some of the new songs from the album on the 23rd June when the band play live on the Simon Mayo Show. The show is being broadcast from St Etienne on the day of Scotland's first round World Cup match against Morocco.

Andy Ross



Letter from the editor....

Howdeedoo there pardners and welcome to the new look issue of "Flavour..." packed as usual with news and information on the latest releases from Parlophone.

It's been a while since the last communication but this should bring you bang on up to date as we begin to introduce some new sounds such as The Dandy Warhols and Idlewild, and tell you about the latest goings on from the likes of Mansun, Bentley Rhythm Ace and the Supernaturals. Also there is some great music to look forward to in the next few months including, Sean Lennon's album **'Into The Sun'**, the first solo album from ex-Crowded House man Neil Finn and a new album from Dr John; he may be a new name to many of you but this man sure has a history! The highlights cover a wide and wonderful musical spectrum and this is pretty much the theme and message of this issue - so go out there and get yourself eclectic!

Please keep sending your letters in to:

Flavour of the Label
PO Box 21, London W10 6XA

And we will publish a selection in our next issue.

The Editor

blur FC...

There is a limited supply of Fan Club CD's featuring the rare Blur track, 'I Love Her' available to all those wishing to join the Official Blur Fan Club. Also, the new issue of the Fan Club magazine will be publicised soon, featuring exclusive interviews with Alex and Graham.
For more info, send a SAE to:
Blur FC, PO Box 525, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2YX.

For more information on Supergrass and Radiohead see below

Supergrass
PO Box 2212 | Reading | RG14YH

RADIOHEAD
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'COME DOWN'

everclear
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Grand Royal

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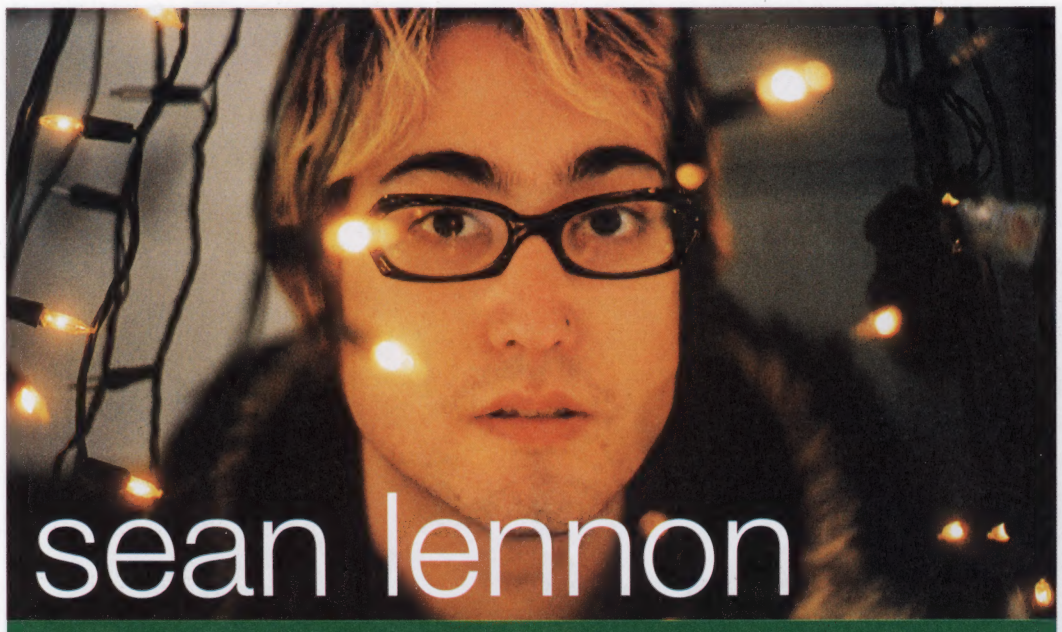


Like Father Like Sean

The 22 year old native New Yorker's debut album, 'Into The Sun', is, according to him, inspired by his girlfriend Yuka Honda. The two met when Yuka's band, Cibo Matto, remixed a track by his mother, Yoko Ono.

It was at a fateful Cibo Matto gig that Sean was to meet the Beastie Boys (who of course own the ultra-cool Grand Royal imprint) for the first time. The Beasties had organised the Tibetan Freedom Concert in San Francisco, where Sean played bass with Cibo Matto (having previously toured with them, opening for acts such as Beck and Sonic Youth).

Sean has also performed bass duties with his own band, Ima, and could recently be heard playing on keyboard maestro (and Grand Royal affiliate) Money Mark's latest single.

Adam Yauch heard Sean's songs, really liked them and asked him to put out a record on Grand Royal.

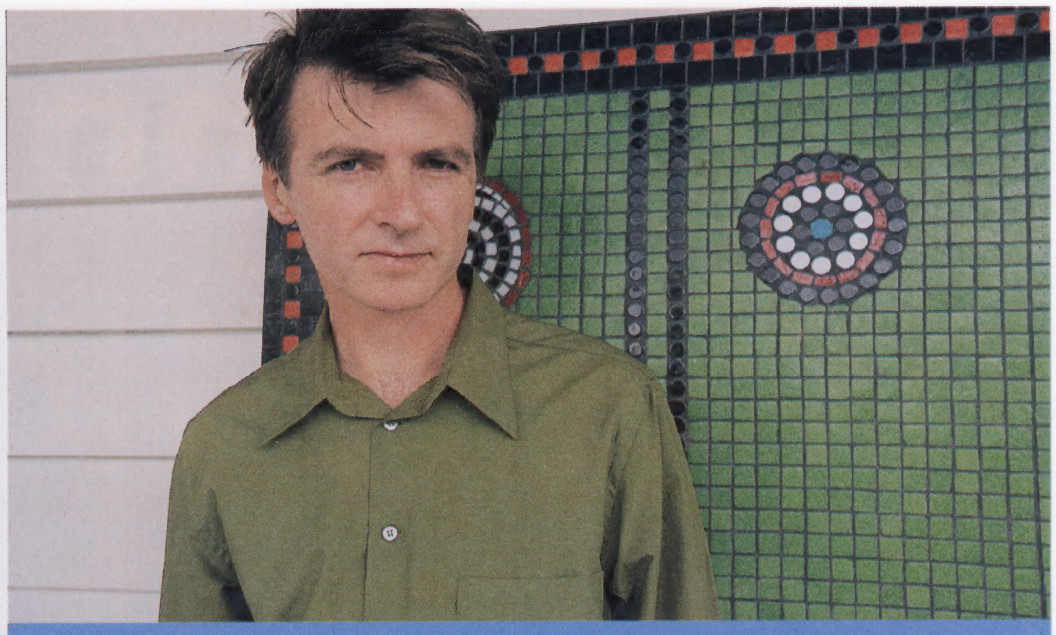
Talking of the Beastie Boys (and his decision to record for Grand Royal) in his recent Q interview, Sean says;

"I said I'd love to. There was no second thought about it. There's no denying the immense coolness of the Beasties and what they've done. Everybody's always calling Oasis the new Beatles, but I think the Beasties are more like the new Beatles".

Finding inspiration in great artists like Chet Baker, Stevie Wonder and Brian Wilson (as well as his own parents), Sean Lennon looks to have remained true to his incredible musical lineage by producing a debut album that is both rich in it's diversity and adventure, yet never short on melody.

You can discover for yourself when **'Into The Sun'** is released by Grand Royal/Parlophone on May 18th.

Simon Blackmore



NEIL FINN

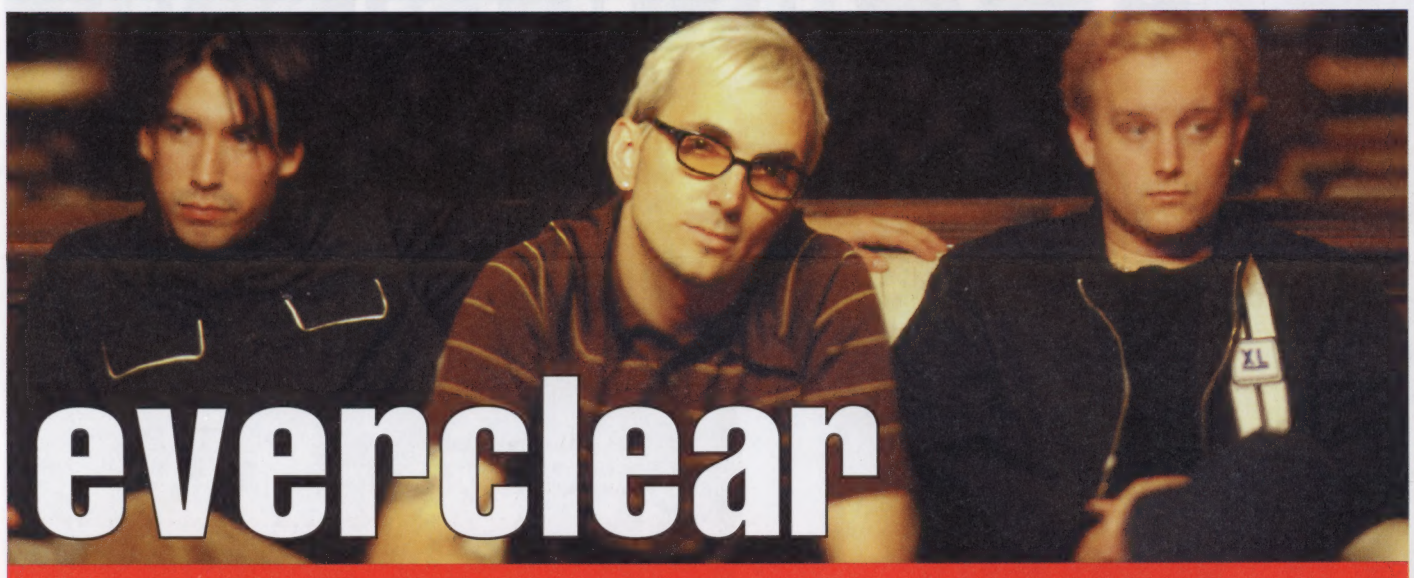
Home Alone

'Weather With You', 'Four Seasons In One Day', 'Don't Dream It's Over', 'Fall At Your Feet' all songs penned by one of the world's finest songwriters Neil Finn for his band Crowded House. Fans included everyone from Radiohead to Liam Gallagher to Steven Tyler.

Well, two years ago he decided to break up the band at their peak and go it alone. A brave decision but it meant he could break free of the responsibilities of having a band and do what the hell he liked. But back home in New Zealand pretty soon the songs began to creep in the back door and using his lounge as his studio (until the proper one in his basement was built) he started working with drum machines, samples and percussion loops, putting down the rhythm tracks later. Producer Marius De Vries, fresh from working with Nellee Hooper, came down for a two-week collaboration, musician friends helped out too, and then Neil took off to New York to work with people like Sebastian Steinberg, bass player with Soul Coughing. In essence Neil involved a whole cast of collaborators and technological devices to replace the traditional band, something which he felt was quite liberating after spending half his life in bands.

The result, his album, **'Try Whistling This',** is a lustrous collection of contemporary songs, at times darker and less structured than Neil's previous work, but his flair for goosebump-raising melody never fails him. The first single, **'She Will Have Her Way',** is an elegant pop gem, whilst **'Sinner'** and **'Loose Tongue'** are groove-heavy explorations. Crowded House fans will certainly not be disappointed, and this very timely record has the potential to connect with a whole new generation of fans.

Karen Johnson



Everything To Everyone

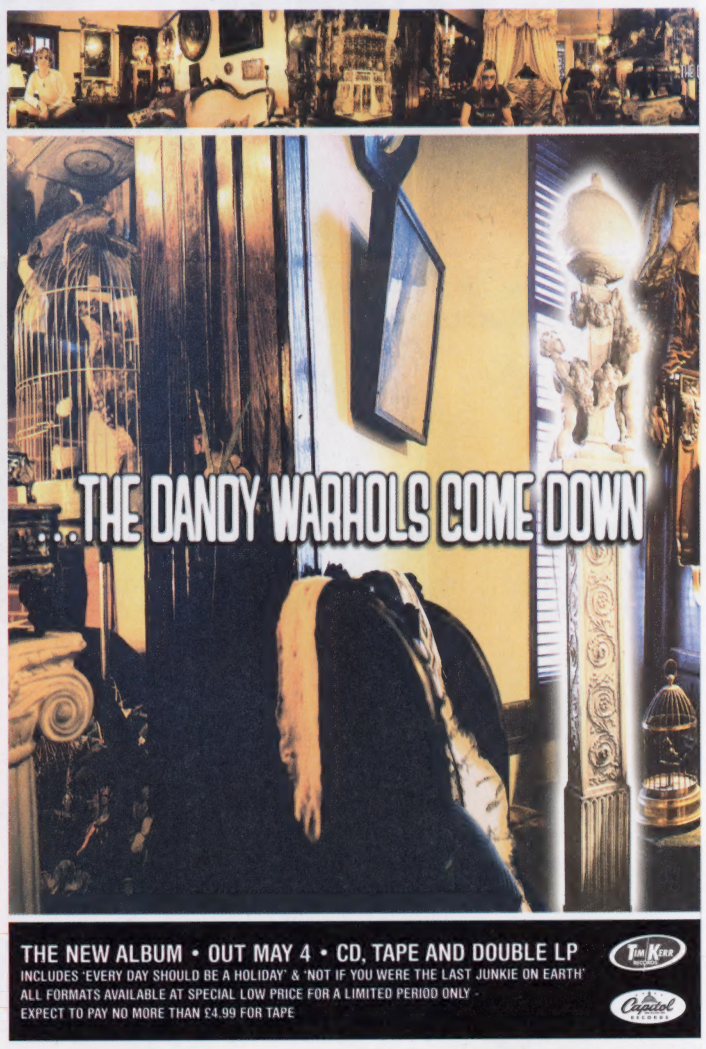
American three-piece band Everclear, over here at the moment on their sell out tour, release their new single, 'Everything To Everyone' this week. This band just go from strength to strength - a million albums sold in the US and a fast-expanding set of fans in the UK.

Singer and songwriter Art Alexakis' story is pretty well known; the working-class child of a broken home, he drank at age eight, smoked dope at nine, dropped acid at eleven and throughout his teenage years was into every kind of substance abuse going. He grew up with his mother on the only housing project in West Los Angeles and went to Santa Monica High School, where bizarrely his classmates included the actors Emilio Estevez and Sean Penn.

After kicking his habit in his early twenties (he's been clean ever since), Art moved to Portland Oregon and formed Everclear in 1991 with bassist Craig Montoya and drummer Greg Eklund (who, incidently lived in Britain on a US airbase for a while as a child and still supports The Arsenal - what do Americans know about footie anyway?) Since then they have released three albums; **'World Of Noise'**, **'Sparkle And Fade'**, and the current, **'So Much For The Afterglow.'** The new album is much more diverse than previous post-grunge offerings; more energy-driven new wave than straightforward hard-rock; the title track **'So Much For The Afterglow'** for instance, starts with a Beach Boys style intro. Art explains; "I found myself turning to a lot of Elvis Costello, Beach Boys, Beatles, Public Enemy, the early Pixies records - all the stuff I'd grown up with. I had lots of '60's and '70's pop stuff too. I think all that had a big impact on this record. Production-wise, it's a very lush record. The Beach Boys vocal part was just another texture, along with the strings, the horns on **'One Hit Wonder'**. Other stand-out tracks include the rocket-fuelled **'Amphetamine'**, the folk-tinged **'Sunflowers'** and the current soaraway single, **'Everything To Everyone'**.

If you can't catch them live this time round, Everclear are set to return in the Autumn.

Karen Johnson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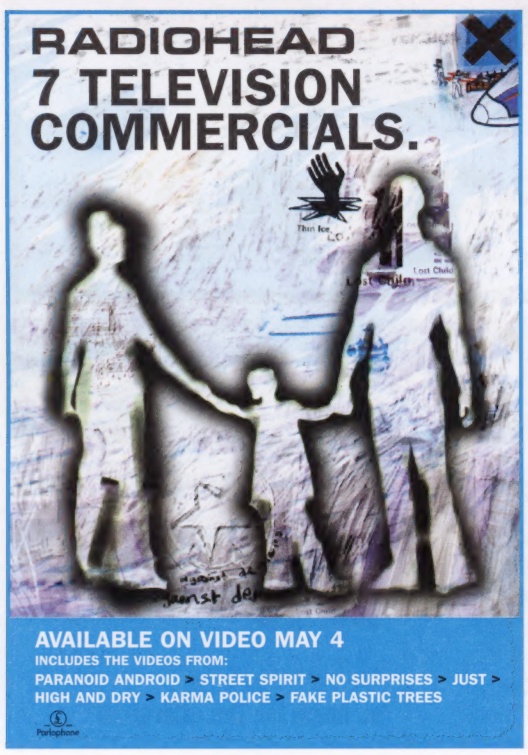
Tim Kerr
Capitol Records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7 TELEVISION COMMERCIALS.
AVAILABLE ON VIDEO MAY 4
INCLUDES THE VIDEOS FROM:
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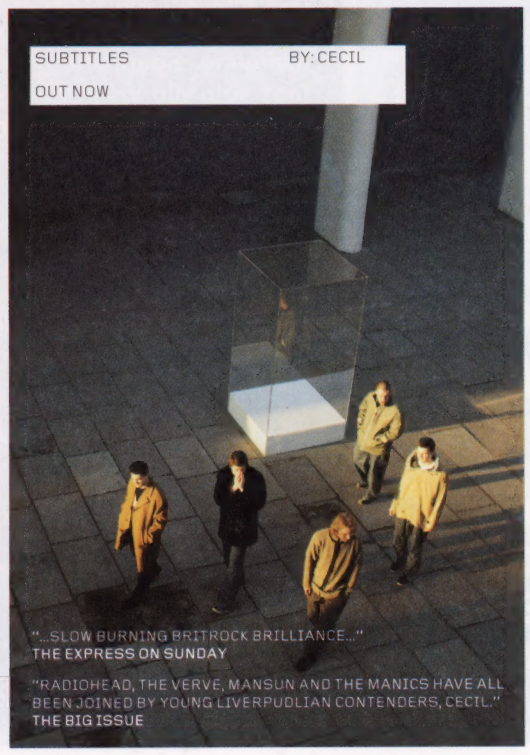
HIGH AND DRY > KARMA POLICE > FAKE PLASTIC TREES
Parlophone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